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OPEN LETTERS.

Where is the home of Calypso?

I was much interested in Mr. Blanchard's notes on this dainty plant in the August number of this paper, for every botanist loves Calypso. If abundance of individuals is to determine the true home of the Calypso, then the Puget Sound region will easily bear the palm from northern Vermont. Fifty or one hundred specimens in half a day does not not seem at all impressive to me, for I have frequently gathered bouquets of several hundred in a few hours; and only two years ago I saw a boy selling bunches of 100 or more for ten cents, a fact which speaks more for the abundance of the plant than for proper local appreciation of its beauty. What is particularly interesting is that the habit of Calypso here seems to differ very decidedly from its habit in the east. The plant here never grows in Sphagnum bogs; indeed from my experience with it, I would nearly as soon look for it on exposed rock as in Sphagnum. I find it in rather dry and open coniferous woods, especially where the ground is covered with Hypnum Oreganum. It seems to have a decided preference for this moss and an almost equal antipathy to Hypnum splendens.

It would perhaps be better for Calypso did it grow here in Sphagnum, for its home in dry Hypnums renders it peculiarly subject to destruction by forest fires. I know of many places where a few years ago it was abundant, that will never again be brightened by its dainty slippers, all owing to fires. So I shall not be surprised if in a very few years the plant will be found more abundant in Vermont than it will be here.

I find that a large proportion of the plants here are fertile. The only insects I have seen on the flowers were ants, which were feeding on the nectar. I am inclined to believe that they are not the usual, if indeed at all, the fertilizers of Calypso.— CHAS. V. PIPER, *Seattle, Wash.*

Botanical Clubs in California.

A paragraph in the July GAZETTE mentions the organization of a botanical club in San Francisco. The beginning of this year witnessed the formation of two, one in Berkeley and one in San Francisco. The former dates from February 25, and is named the Chamisso Botanical Club, in memory of the distinguished botanist who visited the California shores in the early part of the century. It grew out of a purely spontaneous desire on the part of a number of post- and undergraduate students to engage in some work that would contribute to the knowledge of the California flora, and to this end they perfected an organization in which the professor of botany was in no way concerned and of which he was entirely ignorant until after the young society was fairly on its feet, and had mapped out for itself a special line of work. The members have been engaged in the accumulation of material for an annotated list of the plants growing within twenty miles of San Francisco, and have discovered many species new to the region and expect to "undiscover" a few that have been credited to this locality and do not grow here.

The other is the California Botanical Club, organized in San Francisco March 5, much more pretentious in point of membership, its roll bearing at last accounts one hundred and twenty-five names. On the list are the names of some well-known botanists of the Pacific Coast; but the majority are ladies who are interested in ferns and flowers. The club has a field of usefulness, in teaching and interesting in botany those who have leisure, and thus enlisting a larger number in the work of collecting and exploration — a work which is, in this state, only well begun.— WILLIS L. JEPSON, *Berkeley, Cal.*

NOTES AND NEWS.

PROFESSOR DR. GOEBEL has accepted a call to the University of Munich as Professor of Botany and Director of the Botanic Garden.

MR. ARTHUR LISTER, in *Journal of Botany* (Sept.), has published some notes on Mycetozoa, accompanied by four plates. The paper is a notice of the species not included in Dr. Cooke's "Myxomycetes of Great Britain," and contains the description of three new species.

THE HERBARIUM of the late Dr. C. C. Parry has now been arranged for sale, together with an extensive library of botanical works. A catalogue has been issued, which shows 6,780 species, represented by about 18,000 specimens. Of these 5,290 species are North American. Full information can be obtained from Mrs. E. R. Parry, Davenport, Iowa.

IN ANSWER to a request from the city council of Cleveland, Ohio, the U. S. Department of Agriculture detailed Prof. J. C. Arthur, as an agent of the Forestry Division, to examine into the causes of the injury and death of the shade trees of that city. His report ascribes the injury to the excessive quantities of coal smoke, more particularly to the noxious gases which accompany the smoke.

SPHÆROTHECA LANESTRIS Hark. has been supposed to be confined to California, and to a single host, *Quercus agrifolia*, but both the conidial and the mature forms have been found this season in Mississippi, by S. M. Tracy. It occurs on *Quercus prinus*, *alba*, *macrocarpa* and *falcata*, and is rather abundant. The conidial form has also been found in Alabama on Q. alba, by Mr. Geo. E. Atkinson.

FR. JOHOW, who has given much attention to phanerogamous parasites, proposes the following grouping for them, based upon habit: 1. euphytoid parasites, erect land plants, including five families with 35 genera and 400 species; 2. lianoid parasites, including the genus Cuscuta with 77 species and Cassytha with about 20; 3. epiphytoid parasites, tree-dwellers, including 500 Loranthaceæ and 15–18 antarctic Santalaceæ; 4. fungoid parasites, including about 60 species of the two families Balanophoreæ and Cytinaceæ.

AT A MEETING of the Royal Society of Canada, held May 29th last, a club was formed by the botanists present, to be known as the Botanical Club of Canada. It has no connection with the Royal Society other than that which all scientific and literary societies enjoy.